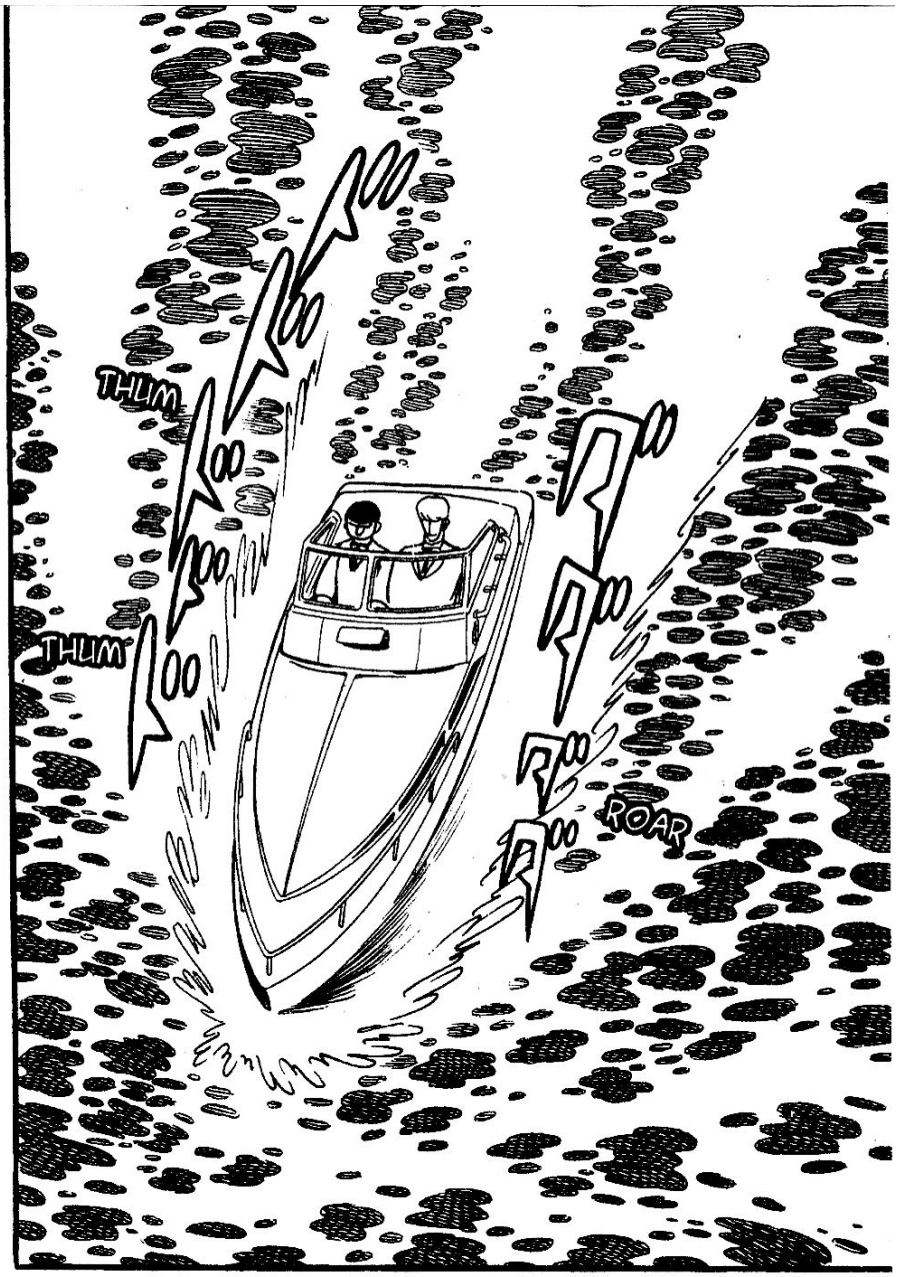
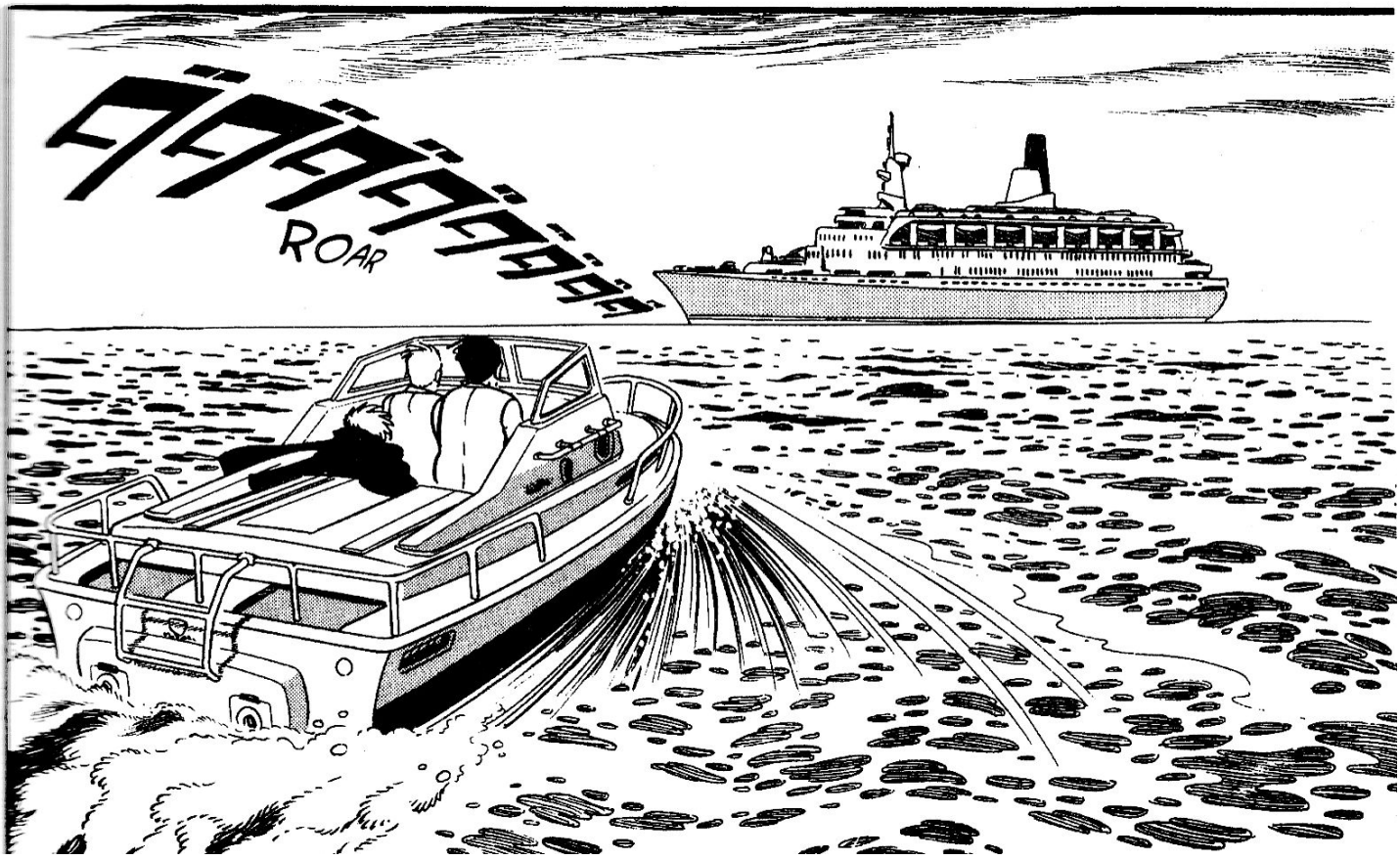
THE TWO JANS

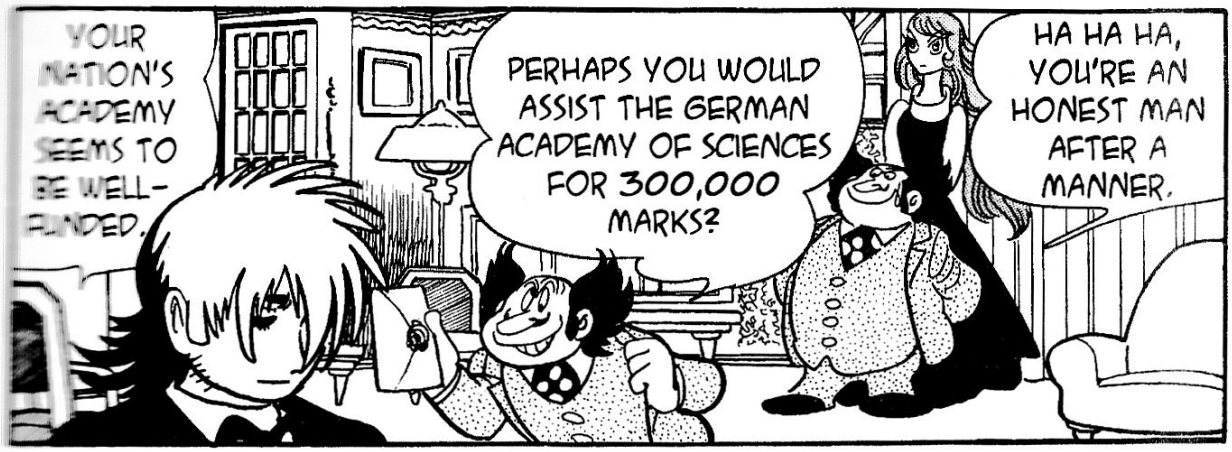
THE OTHERWISE DEFINITIVE JAPANESE EDITION of *Black Jack* on which this translation is based excludes a number of stories for various reasons, one being concern over excessive morbidity. "The Two Jans," which appeared in the August 26, 1974 issue of the weekly *Champion* magazine where *Black Jack* was originally serialized, is one of the excluded episodes. It has been appended especially to this Hardcover Edition courtesy of Tezuka Productions.

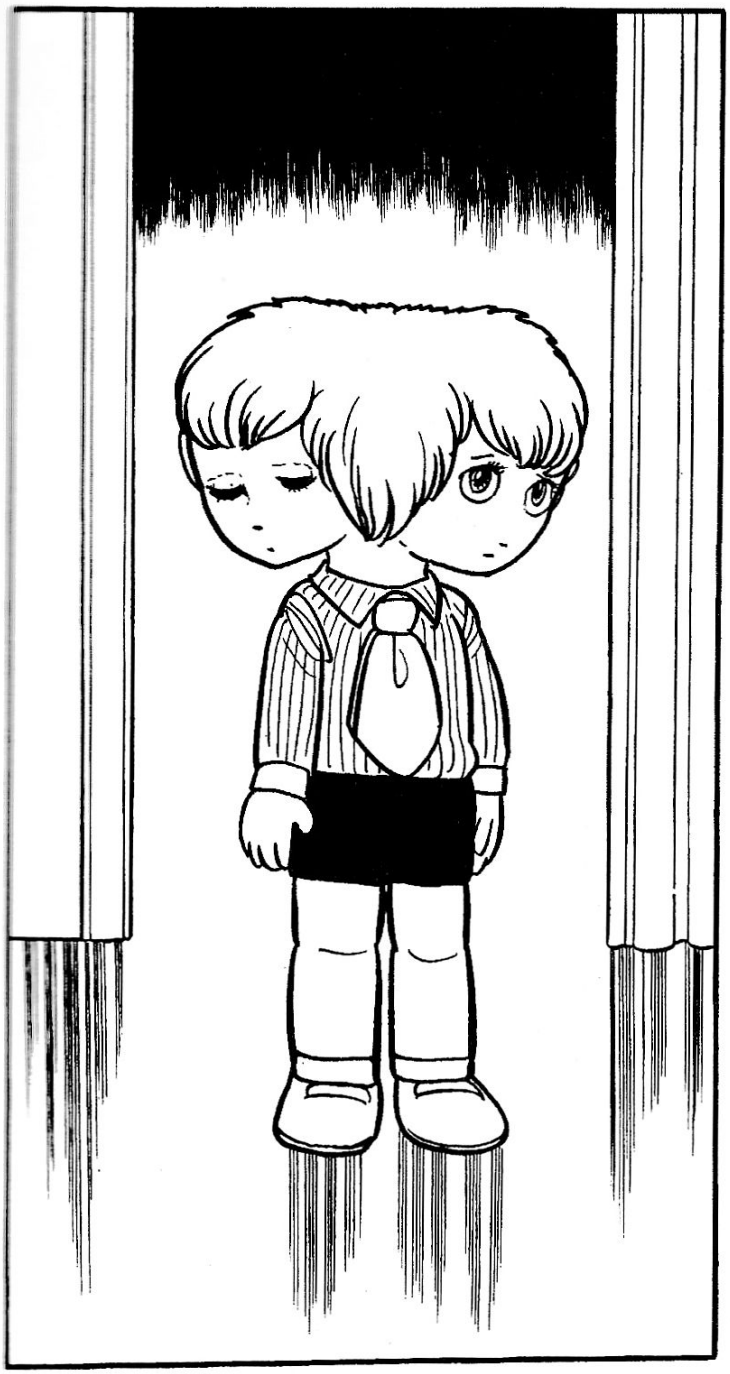
PLEASE HOP ON BOARD, DOCTOR BLACK JACK.
THEY'RE WAITING ON THAT SHIP.


THUM
THUM
ROAR

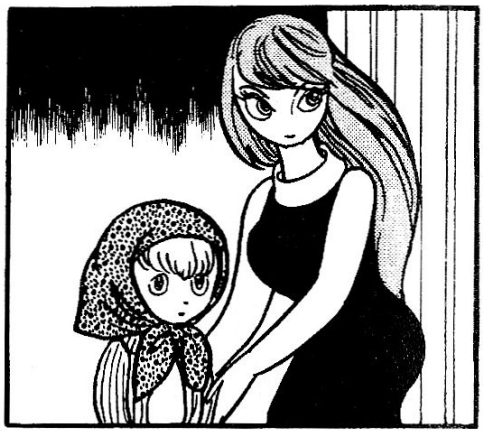

ROAR

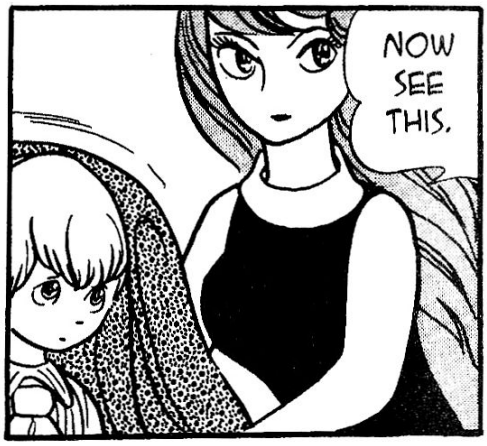
NOTE: "ALEMA MALEA" IS A PALINDROME IN JAPANESE SYLLABICS ("A-RE-MA MA-RE-A").


YOUR NATION'S ACADEMY SEEMS TO BE WELL-FUNDED.
PERHAPS YOU WOULD ASSIST THE GERMAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR 300,000 MARKS?
HA HA HA, YOU'RE AN HONEST MAN AFTER A MANNER.



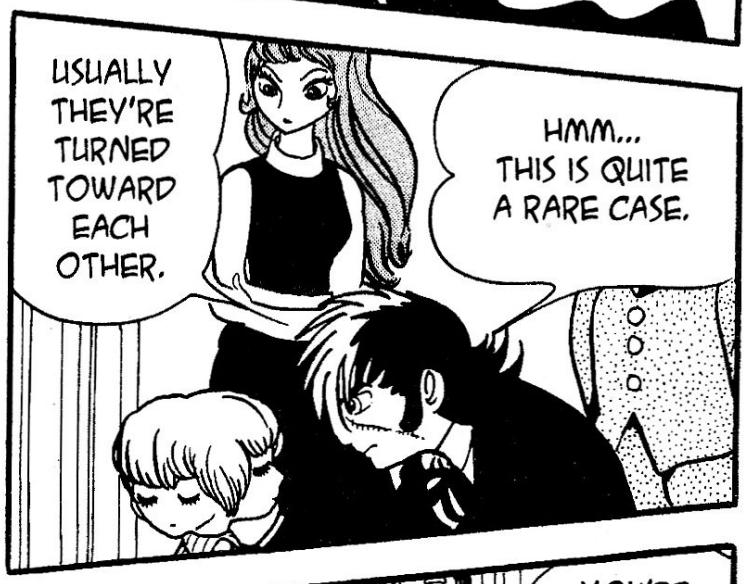
JAN MARCHAND, AGE FIVE.

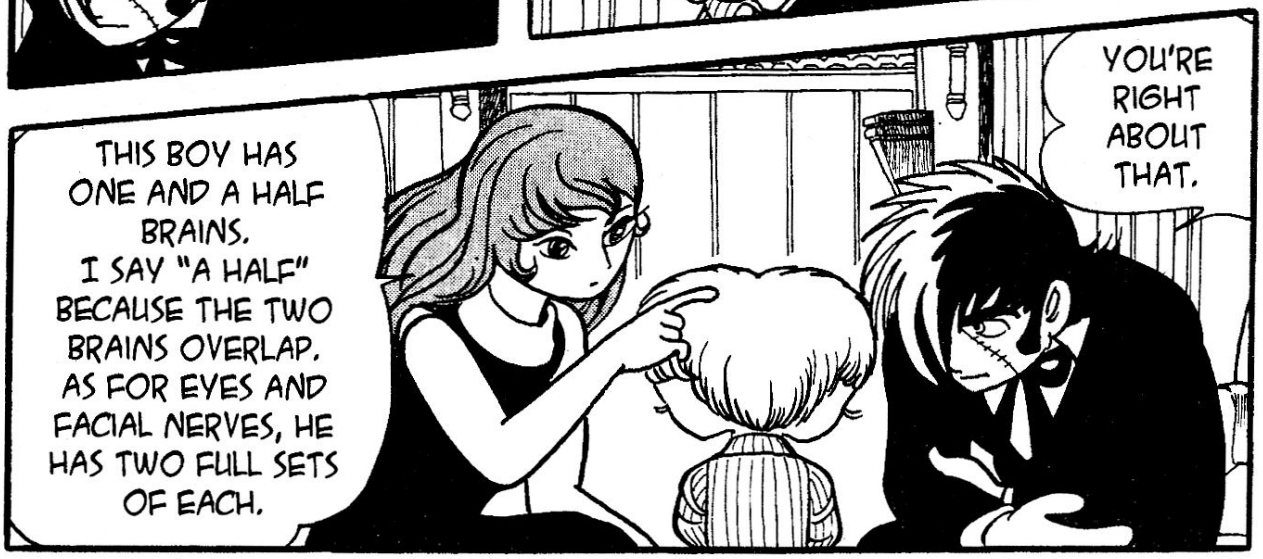



NOW SEE THIS.

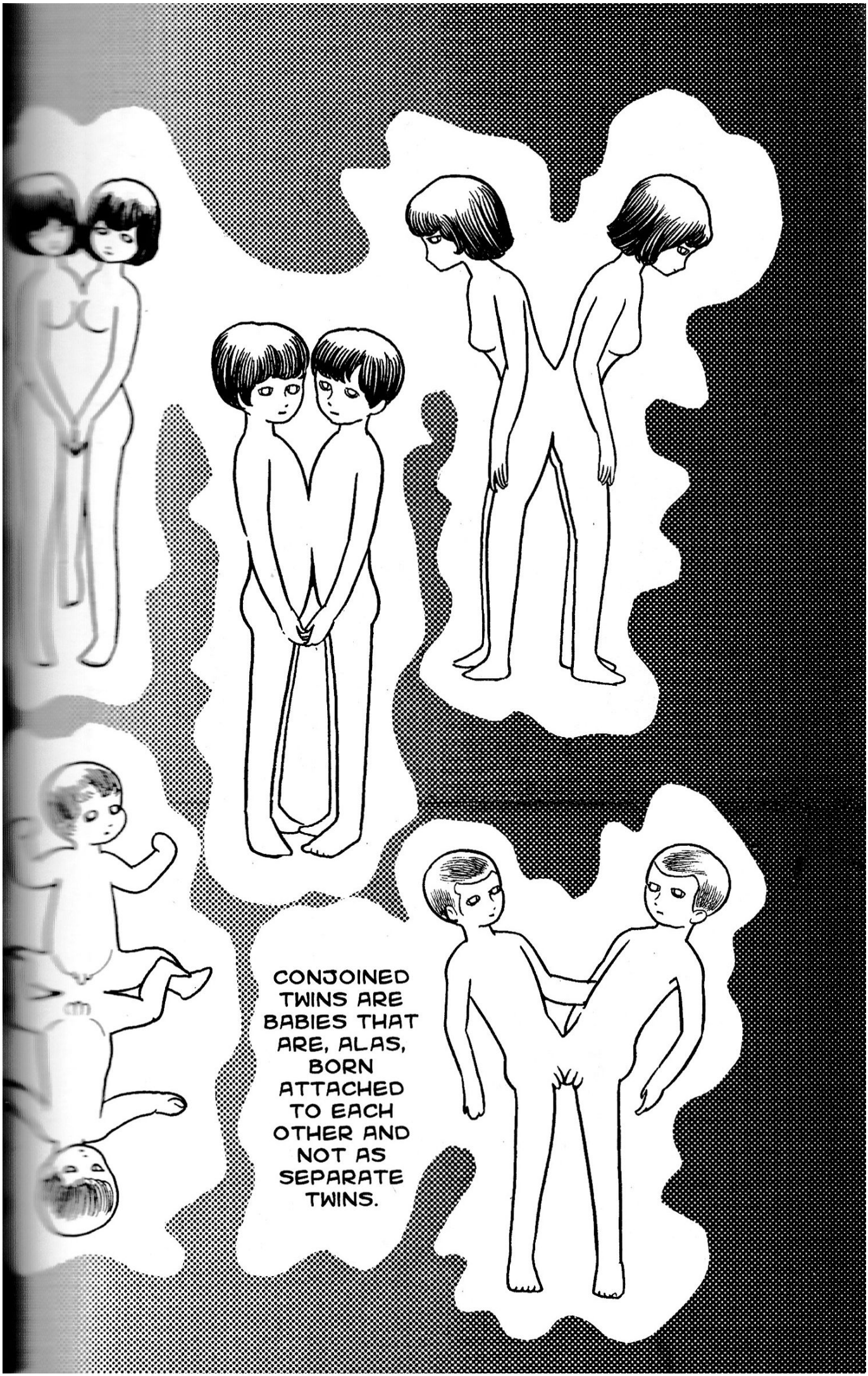
INDEED...
CON-JOINED TWINS!

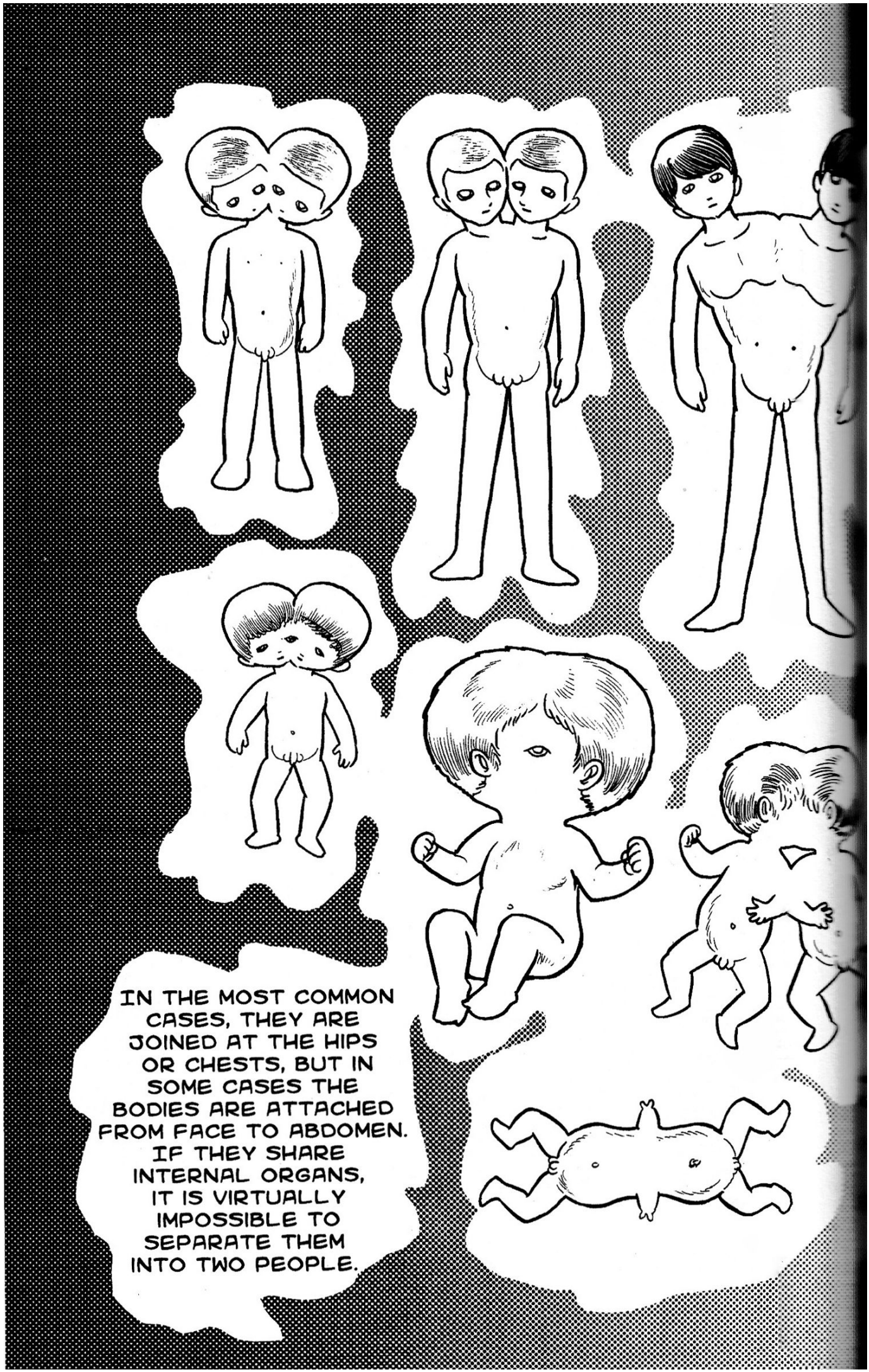
DON'T YOU FIND IT FAR MORE STRANGE THAT HE LIVED TO BE FIVE?

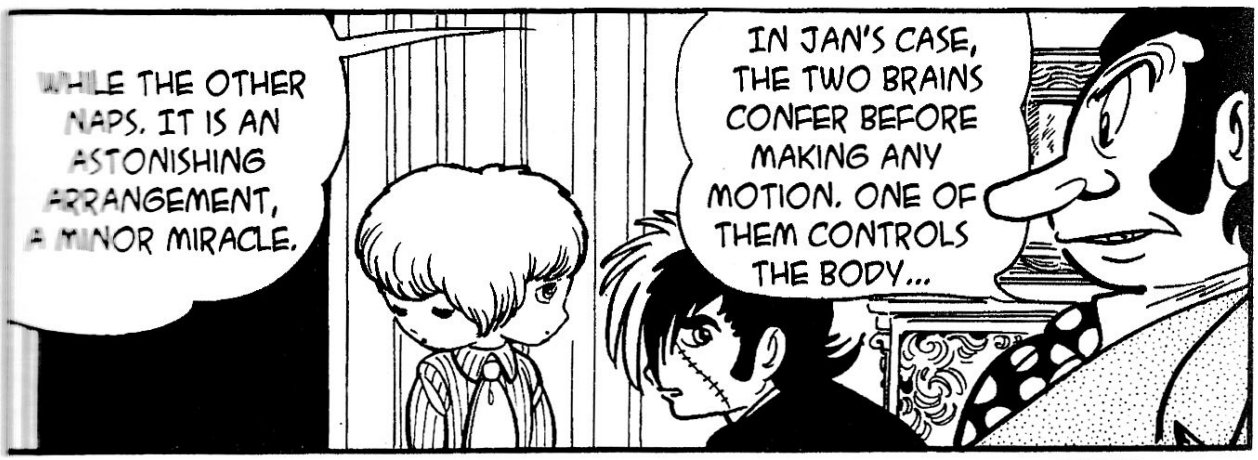

USUALLY THEY'RE TURNED TOWARD EACH OTHER.
HMM... THIS IS QUITE A RARE CASE.


THIS BOY HAS ONE AND A HALF BRAINS. I SAY "A HALF" BECAUSE THE TWO BRAINS OVERLAP. AS FOR EYES AND FACIAL NERVES, HE HAS TWO FULL SETS OF EACH.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

BETWEEN TWO BRAINS THAT TAKE TURNS CEDING TO EACH OTHER.
IN OTHER WORDS, JAN SHARES ONE BODY

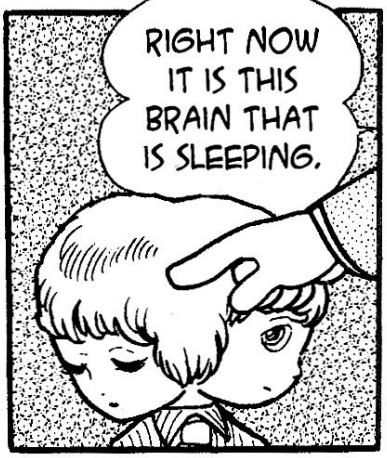

CONJOINED TWINS ARE BABIES THAT ARE, ALAS, BORN ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER AND NOT AS SEPARATE TWINS.


IN THE MOST COMMON CASES, THEY ARE JOINED AT THE HIPS OR CHESTS, BUT IN SOME CASES THE BODIES ARE ATTACHED FROM FACE TO ABDOMEN. IF THEY SHARE INTERNAL ORGANS, IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THEM INTO TWO PEOPLE.

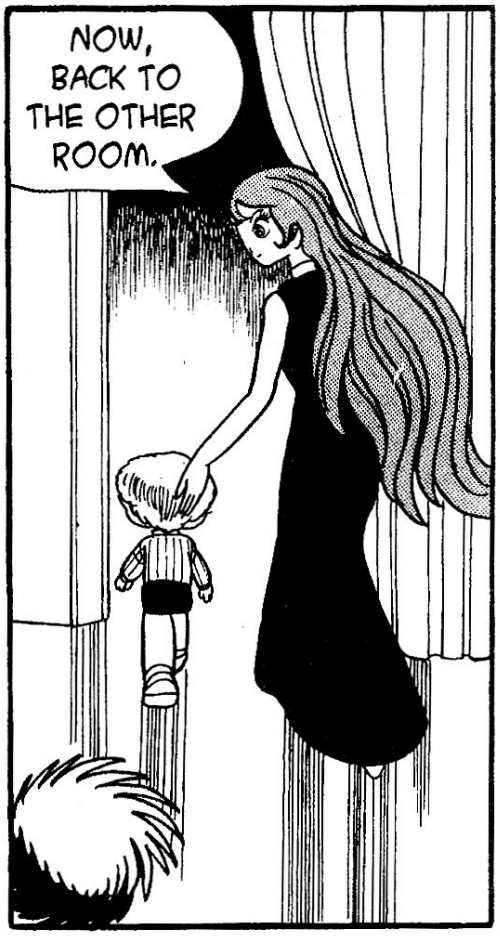

WHILE THE OTHER NAPS. IT IS AN ASTONISHING ARRANGEMENT, A MINOR MIRACLE.
IN JAN'S CASE, THE TWO BRAINS CONFER BEFORE MAKING ANY MOTION. ONE OF THEM CONTROLS THE BODY...

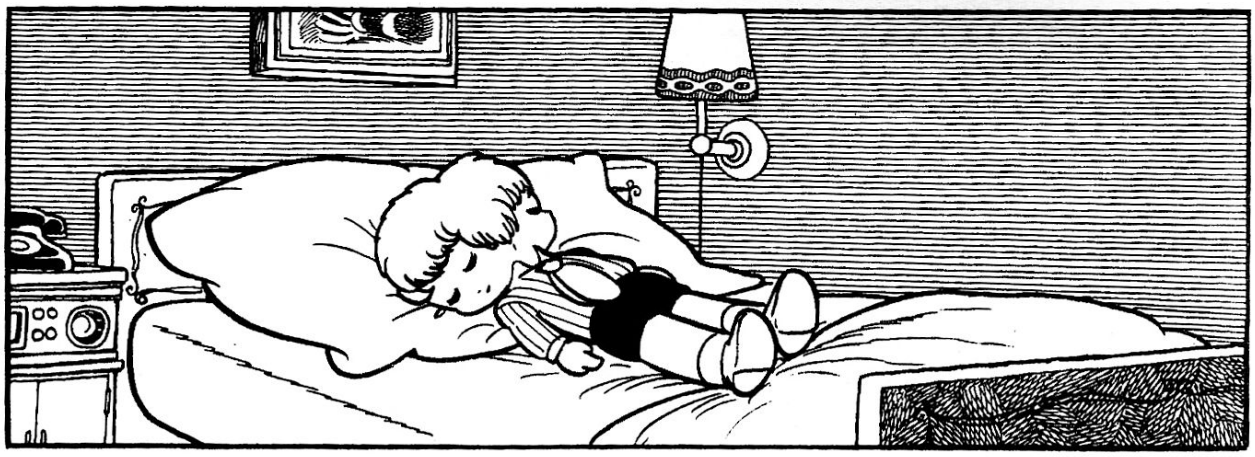
YOU SEE, THE OTHER ONE FALLS ASLEEP.

IF YOU WAKE IT UP...


RIGHT NOW IT IS THIS BRAIN THAT IS SLEEPING.

AND SO WE'D LIKE YOU TO REMOVE ONE OF THEM ALONG WITH ITS FACE!
BUT JAN PROBABLY WON'T SURVIVE ANOTHER YEAR IN HIS CURRENT STATE.
THE BODY DOESN'T ALLOT ENOUGH NUTRIENTS TO SUPPORT TWO BRAINS.


NOW, BACK TO THE OTHER ROOM.

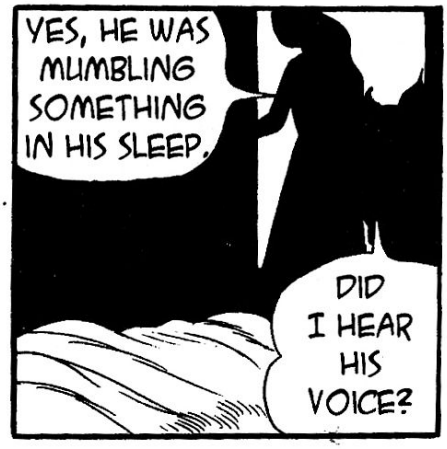


THEY SAID IT'S RISKY NOT TO ...
WHY? WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS?

YES. IT LOOKS THAT WAY...
ONE OF US IS GOING TO BE REMOVED?

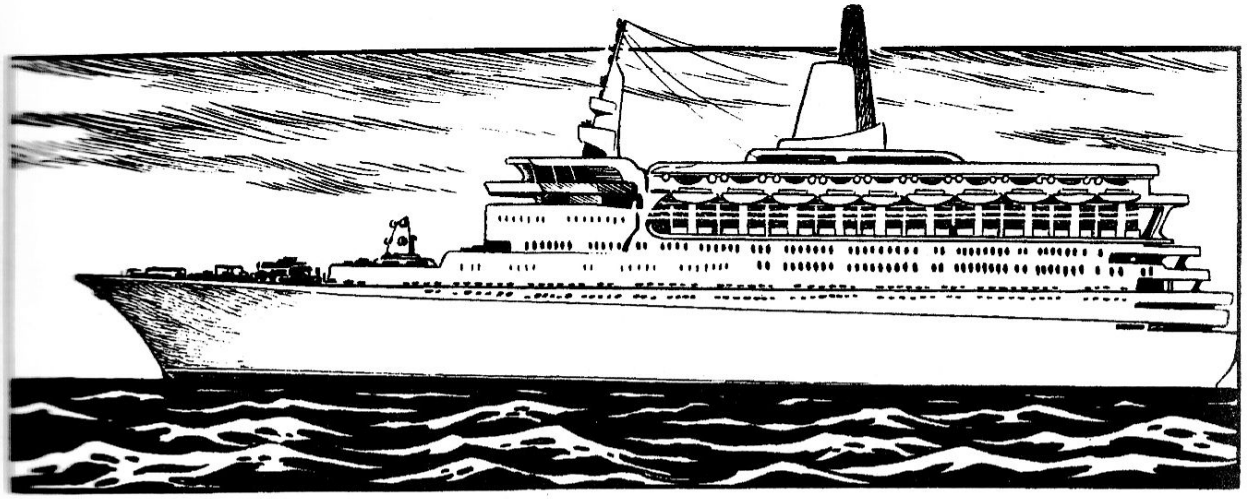
NO, I'LL GO!
LET THEM GET RID OF ME.

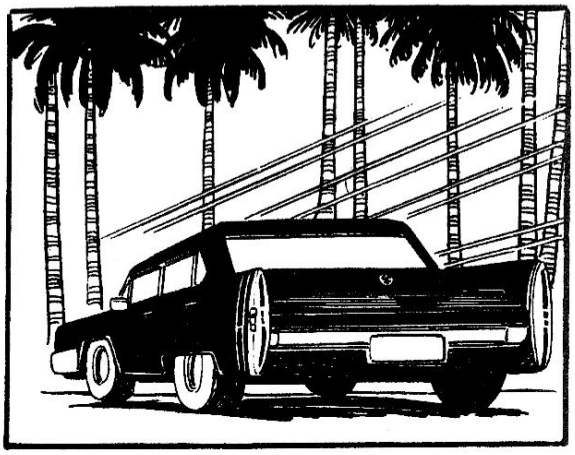
I'LL BE THE ONE TO GO.
BUT WE'VE BEEN DOING OKAY TOGETHER.


YES, HE WAS MUMBLING SOMETHING IN HIS SLEEP.
DID I HEAR HIS VOICE?

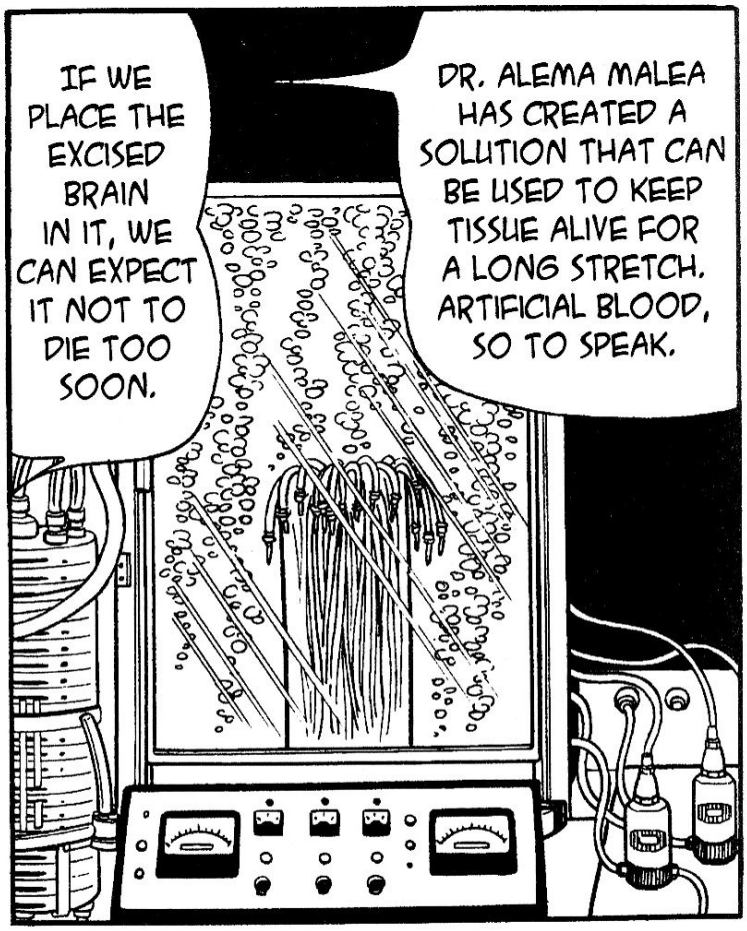
IT'LL BE GOOD-BYE SOON.
HEY, LET'S MAKE A PROMISE.

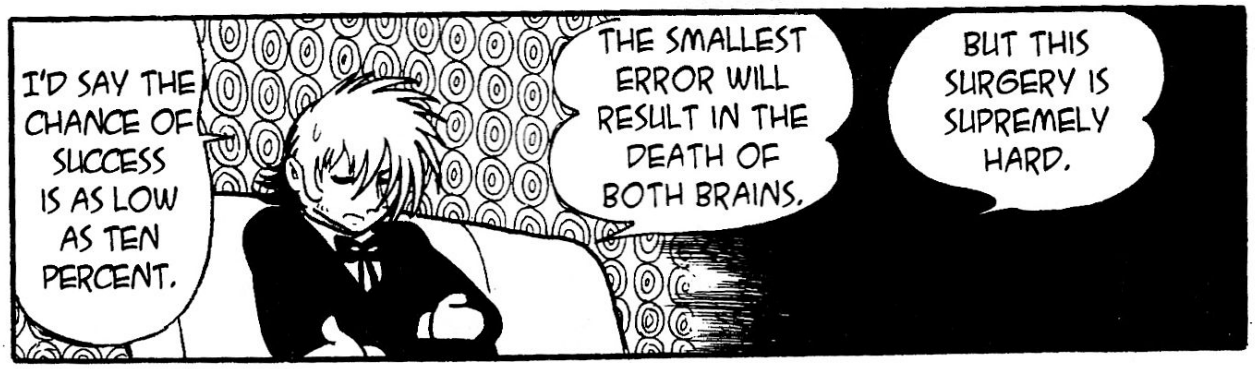
I'M SURE THE DOCTOR WILL DECIDE.
LET'S NOT FIGHT ABOUT THIS.

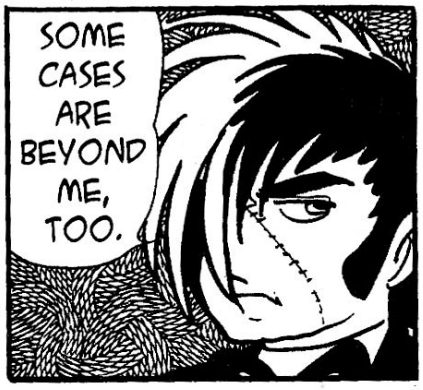




IF THIS OPERATION GOES WELL AND, MOREOVER, THE EXCISED BRAIN LIVES, WE CAN CLAIM A WORLD-CLASS SUCCESS.

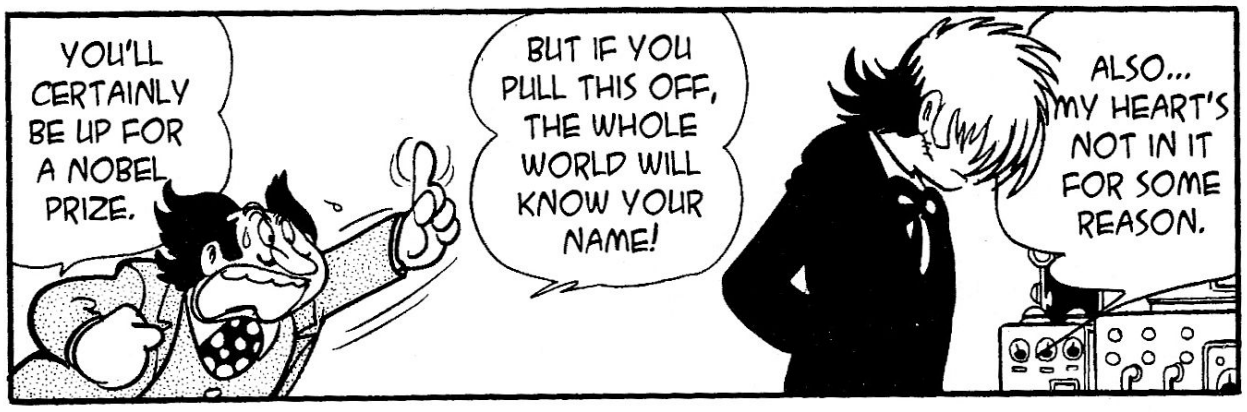

IF WE PLACE THE EXCISED BRAIN IN IT, WE CAN EXPECT IT NOT TO DIE TOO SOON.
DR. ALEMA MALEA HAS CREATED A SOLUTION THAT CAN BE USED TO KEEP TISSUE ALIVE FOR A LONG STRETCH. ARTIFICIAL BLOOD, SO TO SPEAK.


I'D SAY THE CHANCE OF SUCCESS IS AS LOW AS TEN PERCENT.
THE SMALLEST ERROR WILL RESULT IN THE DEATH OF BOTH BRAINS.
BUT THIS SURGERY IS SUPREMELY HARD.


SOME CASES ARE BEYOND ME, TOO.

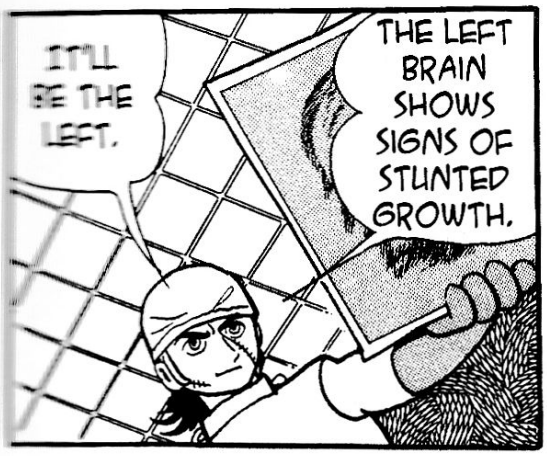
WH-WHAT...?

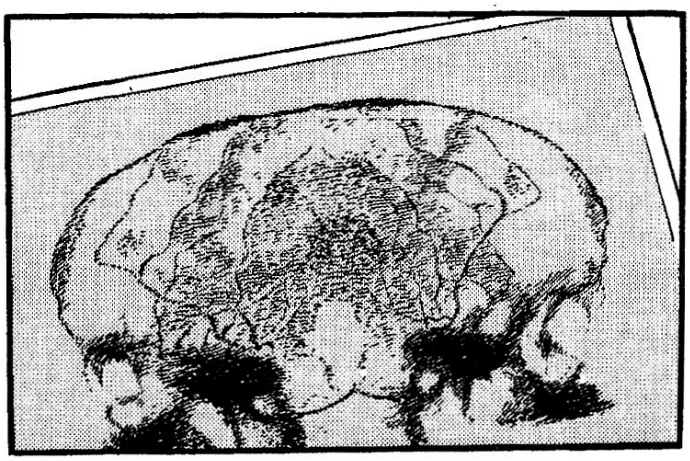
I'LL HAVE TO TURN DOWN YOUR REQUEST.

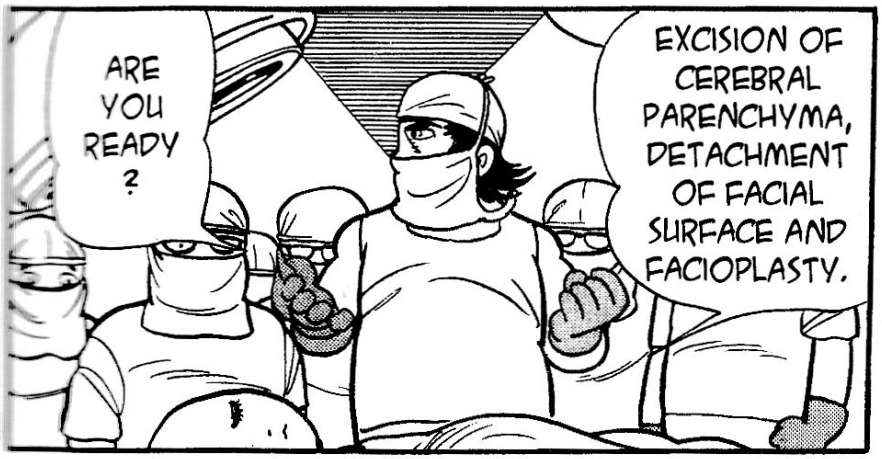

YOU'LL CERTAINLY BE UP FOR A NOBEL PRIZE.
BUT IF YOU PULL THIS OFF, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW YOUR NAME!
ALSO... MY HEART'S NOT IN IT FOR SOME REASON.

WHICH SHALL WE REMOVE?

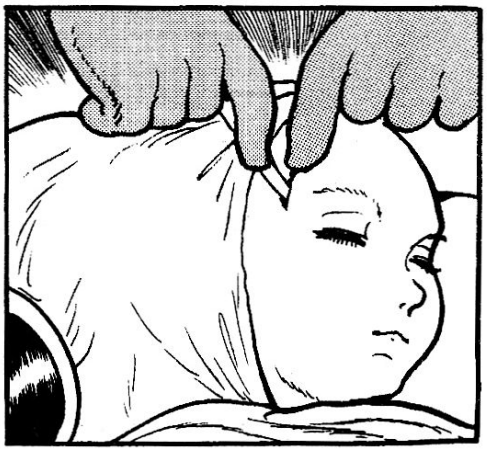
WE ARE READY WHEN YOU ARE !!

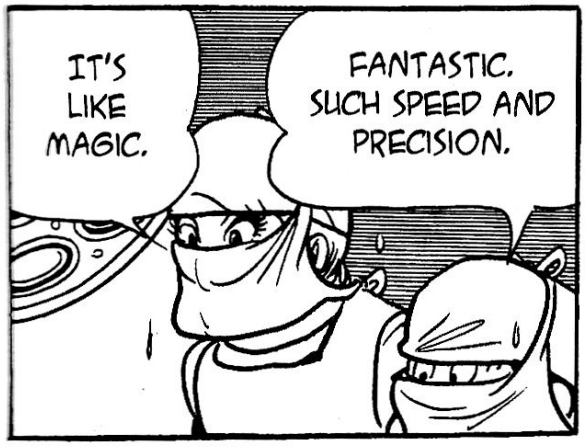

IT'LL BE THE LEFT.
THE LEFT BRAIN SHOWS SIGNS OF STUNTED GROWTH.

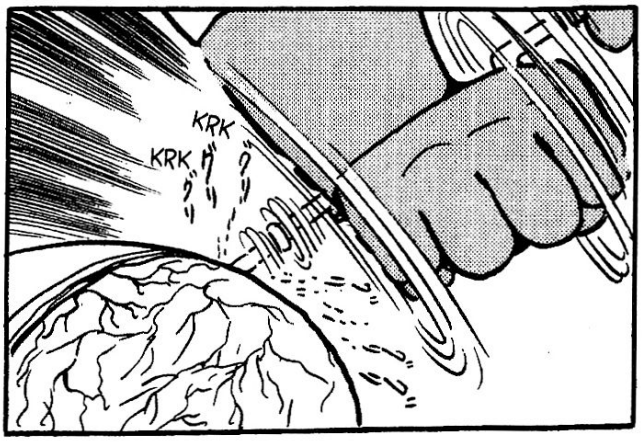


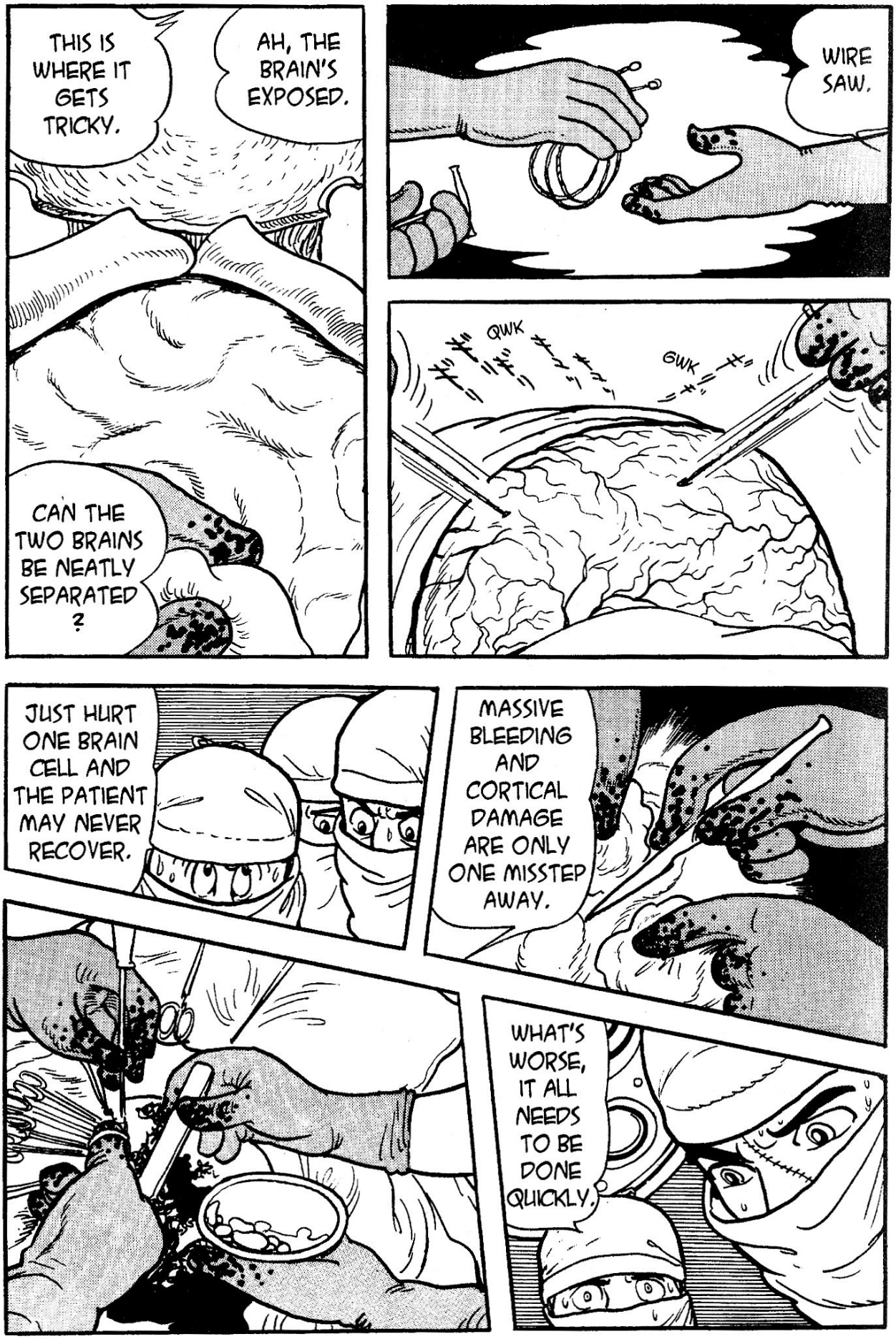

ARE YOU READY ?
EXCISION OF CEREBRAL PARENCHYMA, DETACHMENT OF FACIAL SURFACE AND FACIOPLASTY.

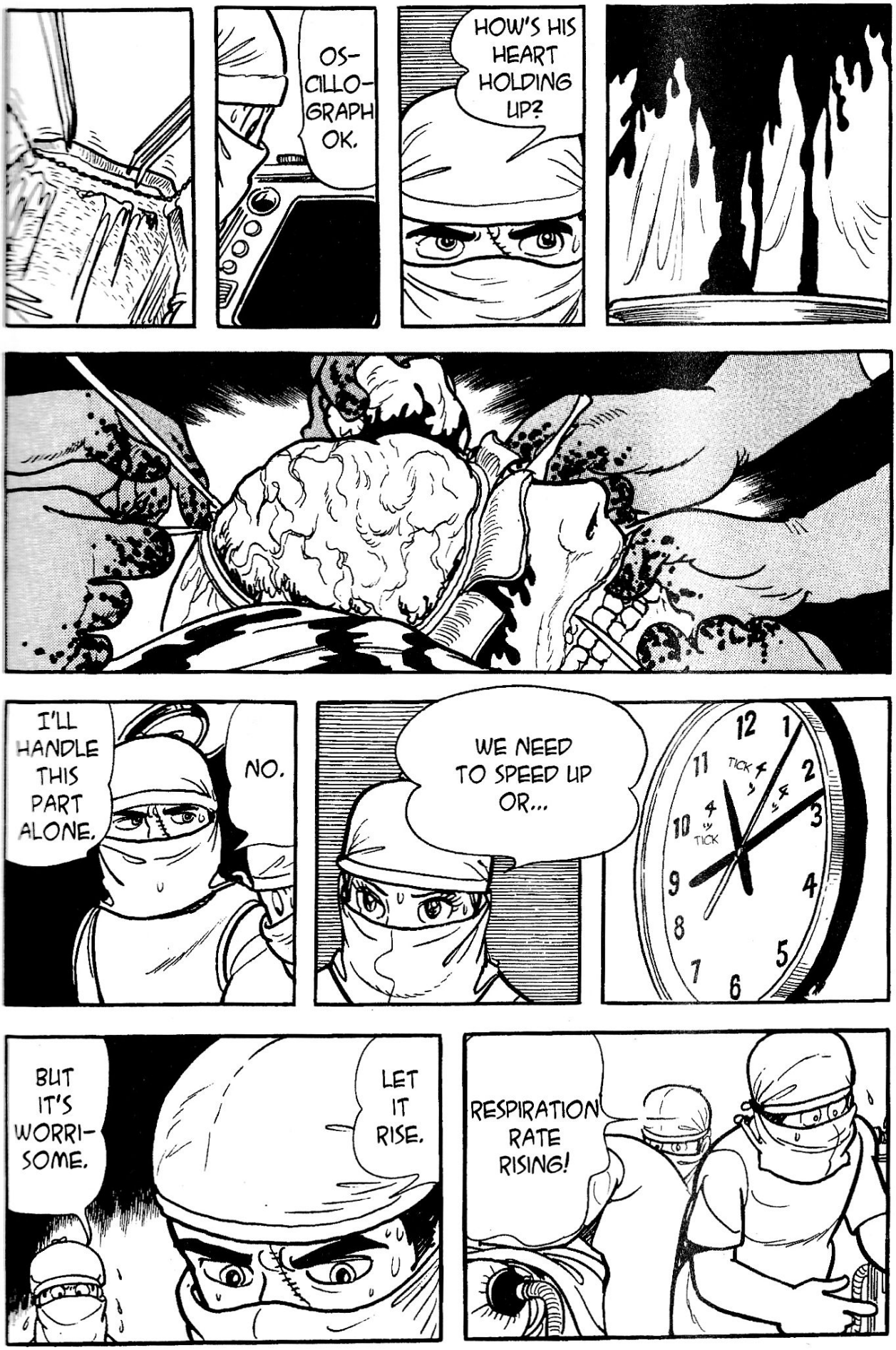
HUDSON DRILL.

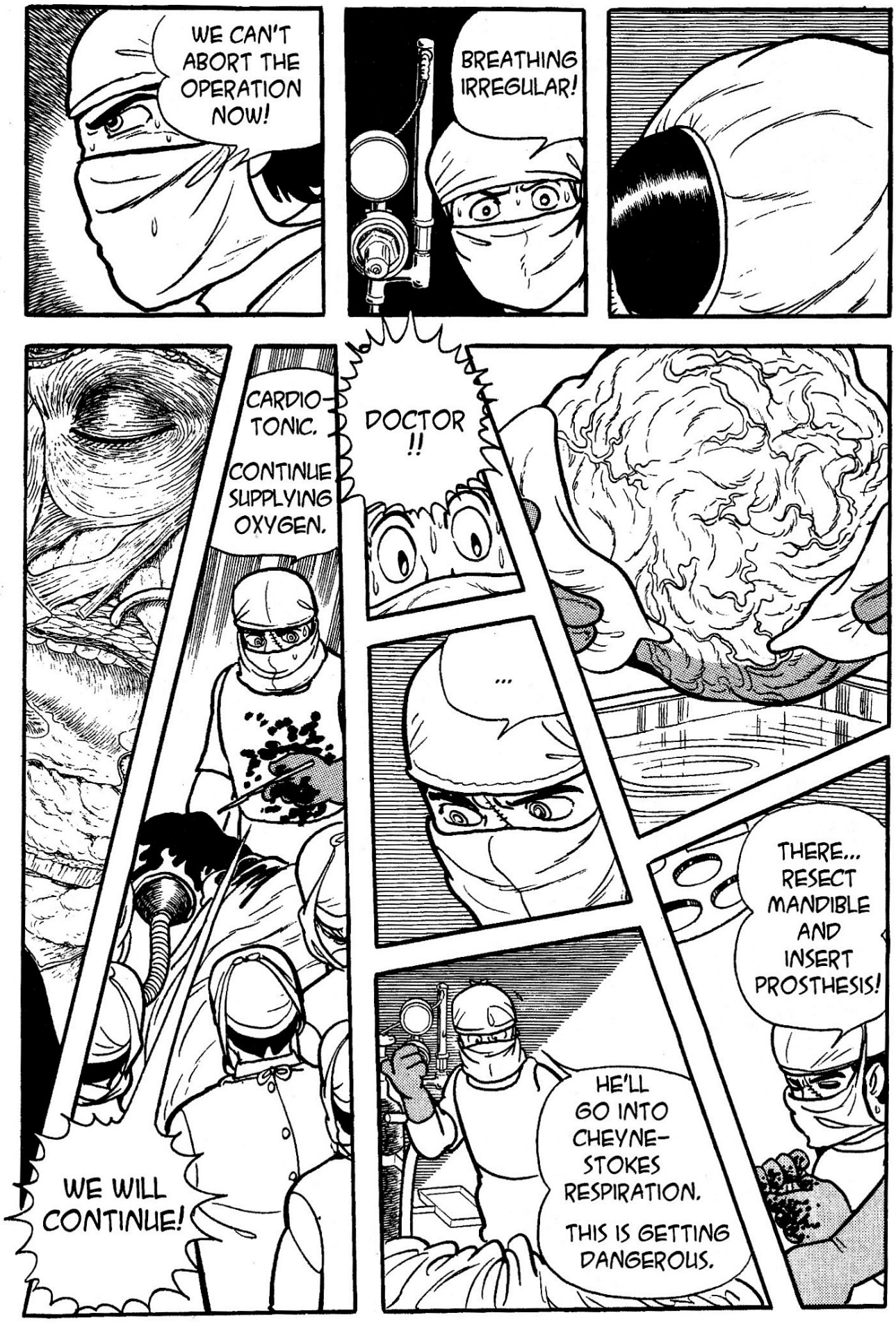



IT'S LIKE MAGIC.
FANTASTIC. SUCH SPEED AND PRECISION.

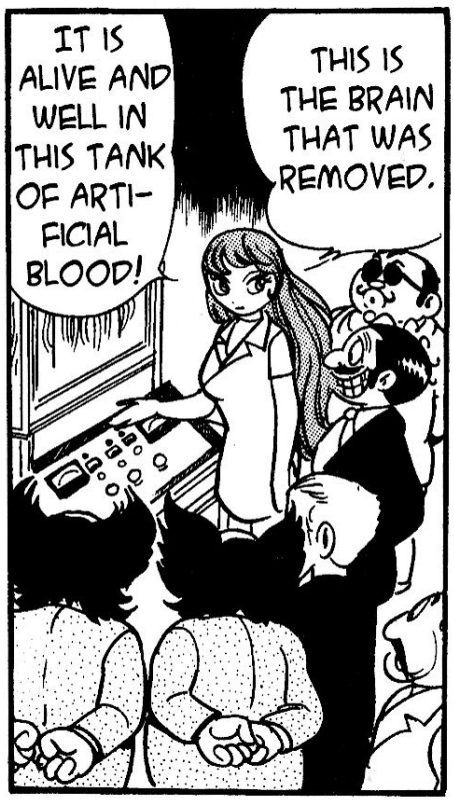

KRK
KRK

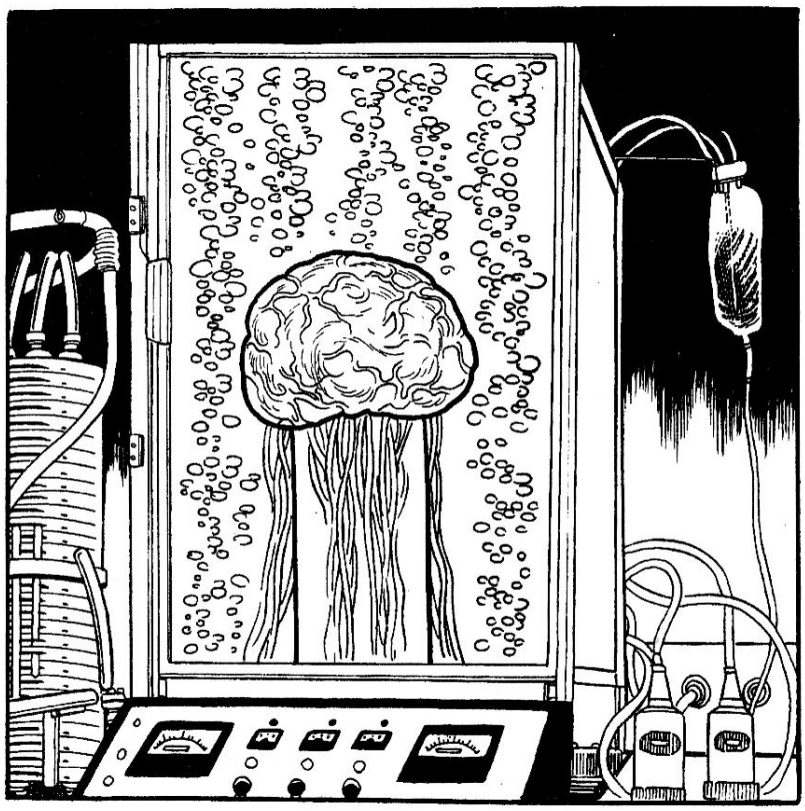

THIS IS WHERE IT GETS TRICKY.
AH, THE BRAIN'S EXPOSED.
CAN THE TWO BRAINS BE NEATLY SEPARATED ?
WIRE SAW.
QWK
GWK
JUST HURT ONE BRAIN CELL AND THE PATIENT MAY NEVER RECOVER.
MASSIVE BLEEDING AND CORTICAL DAMAGE ARE ONLY ONE MISSTEP AWAY.
WHAT'S WORSE, IT ALL NEEDS TO BE DONE QUICKLY.

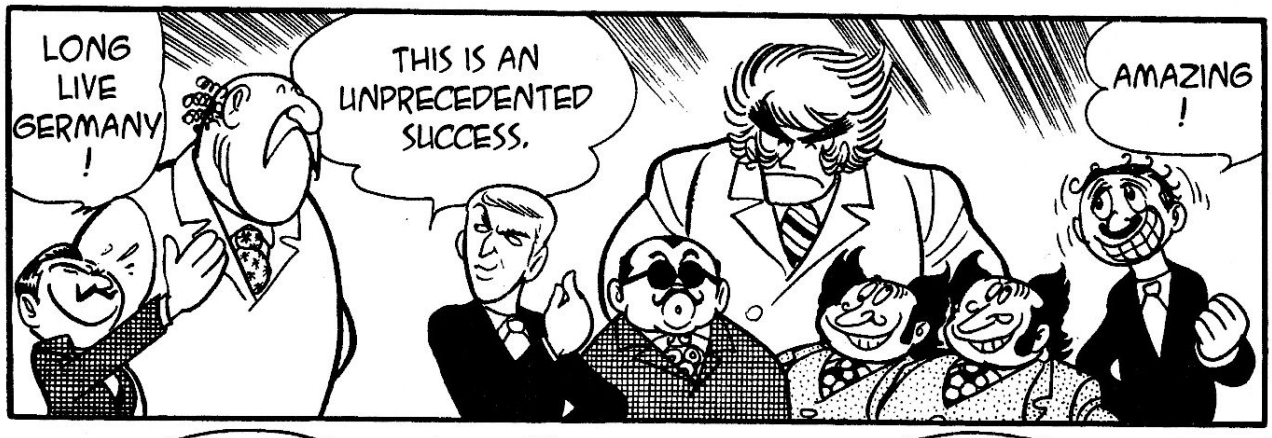

OS-CILLO-GRAPH OK.
HOW'S HIS HEART HOLDING UP?
I'LL HANDLE THIS PART ALONE.
NO.
WE NEED TO SPEED UP OR...
TICK
TICK
BUT IT'S WORRI-SOME.
LET IT RISE.
RESPIRATION RATE RISING!

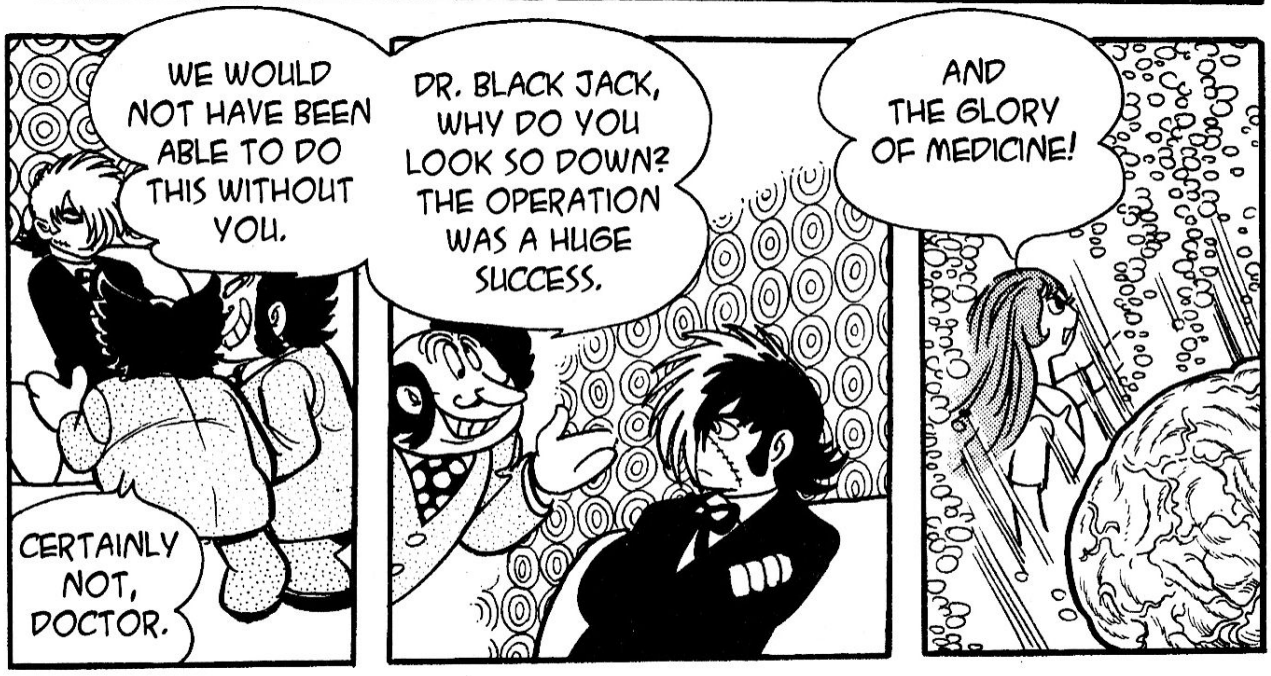

WE CAN'T ABORT THE OPERATION NOW!
BREATHING IRREGULAR!
CARDIO-TONIC.
CONTINUE SUPPLYING OXYGEN.
DOCTOR !!
...
THERE... RESECT MANDIBLE AND INSERT PROSTHESIS!
HE'LL GO INTO CHEYNE-STOKES RESPIRATION.
THIS IS GETTING DANGEROUS.
WE WILL CONTINUE!

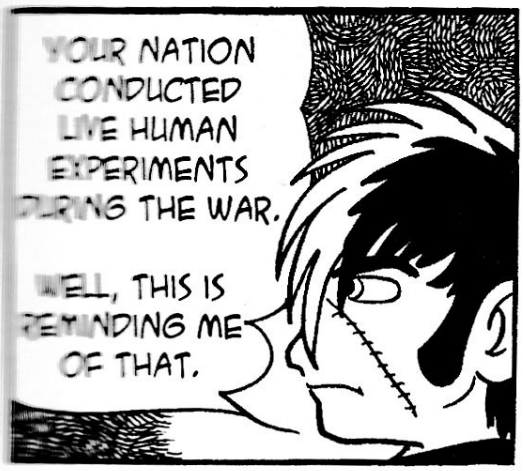
IT'S JUST SUTURING.
PLEASE HANDLE THE REST.
CLIP !
IF HE'S LUCKY, YES.
WILL HE BE OK ?
GOOD THING THERE WAS ONLY ONE CAROTID ARTERY. TWO'D HAVE SPELLED TROUBLE.
SNORE
SNORE
TROUBLE-SOME SURGERY, EVER ...
THAT WAS MY MOST...

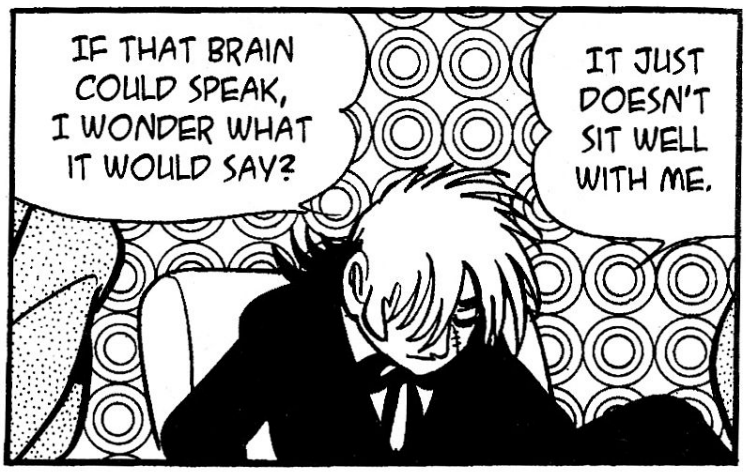

IT IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THIS TANK OF ARTI-FICIAL BLOOD!
THIS IS THE BRAIN THAT WAS REMOVED.

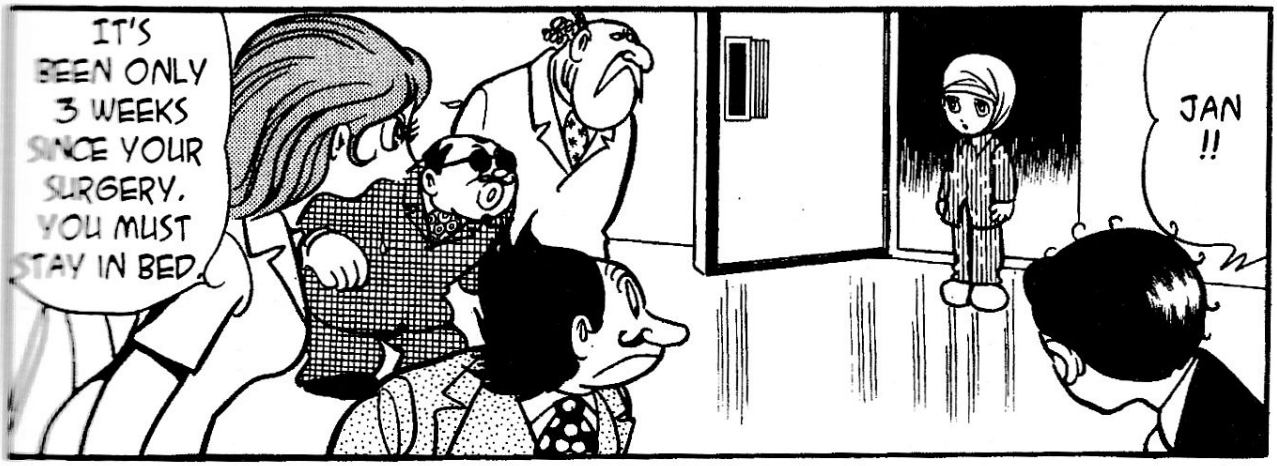


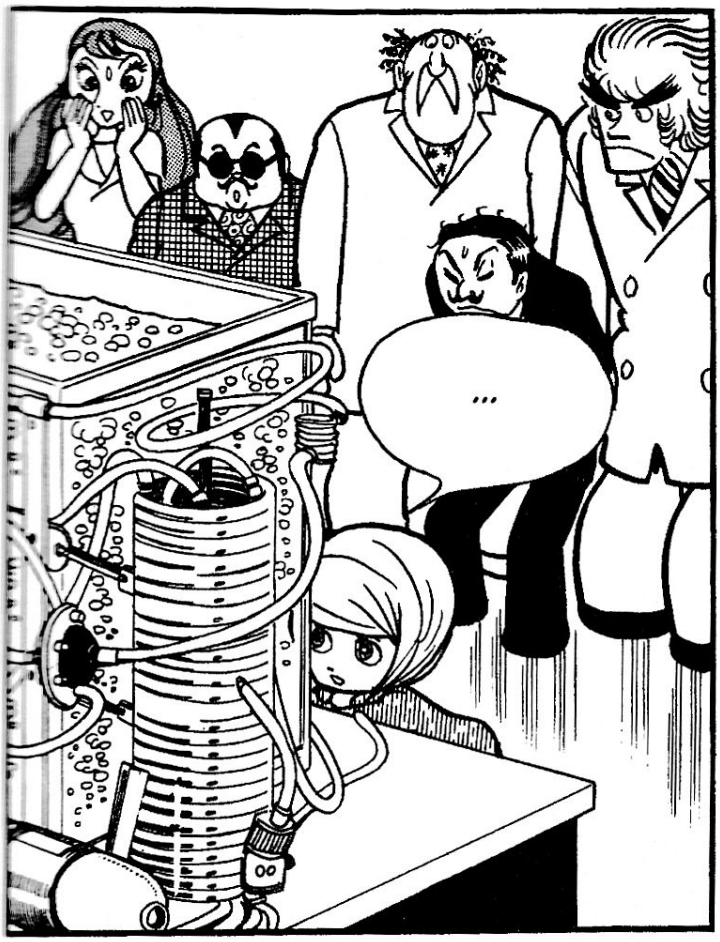

LONG LIVE GERMANY!
THIS IS AN UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS.
AMAZING!


WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO THIS WITHOUT YOU.
CERTAINLY NOT, DOCTOR.
DR. BLACK JACK, WHY DO YOU LOOK SO DOWN? THE OPERATION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS.
AND THE GLORY OF MEDICINE!


YOUR NATION CONDUCTED LIVE HUMAN EXPERIMENTS DURING THE WAR.
WELL, THIS IS REMINDING ME OF THAT.


IF THAT BRAIN COULD SPEAK, I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD SAY?
IT JUST DOESN'T SIT WELL WITH ME.


IT'S BEEN ONLY 3 WEEKS SINCE YOUR SURGERY. YOU MUST STAY IN BED.
JAN !!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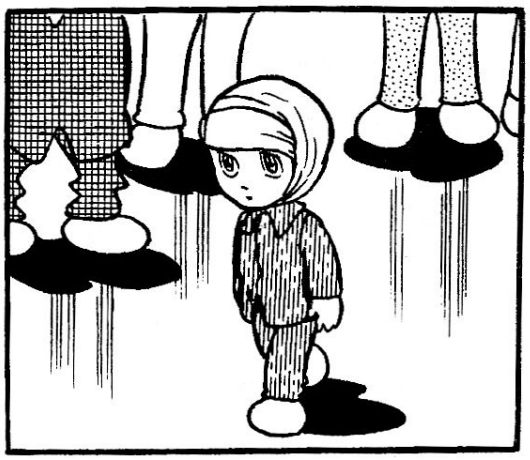
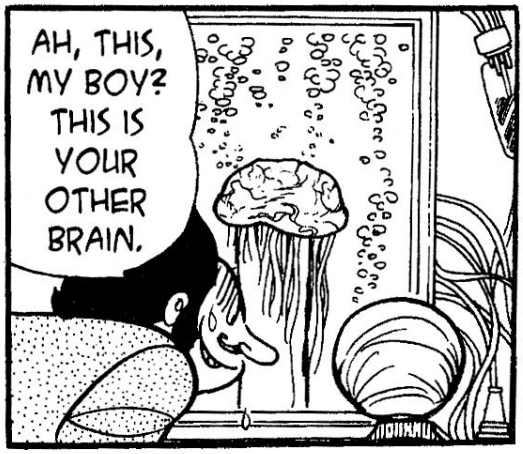
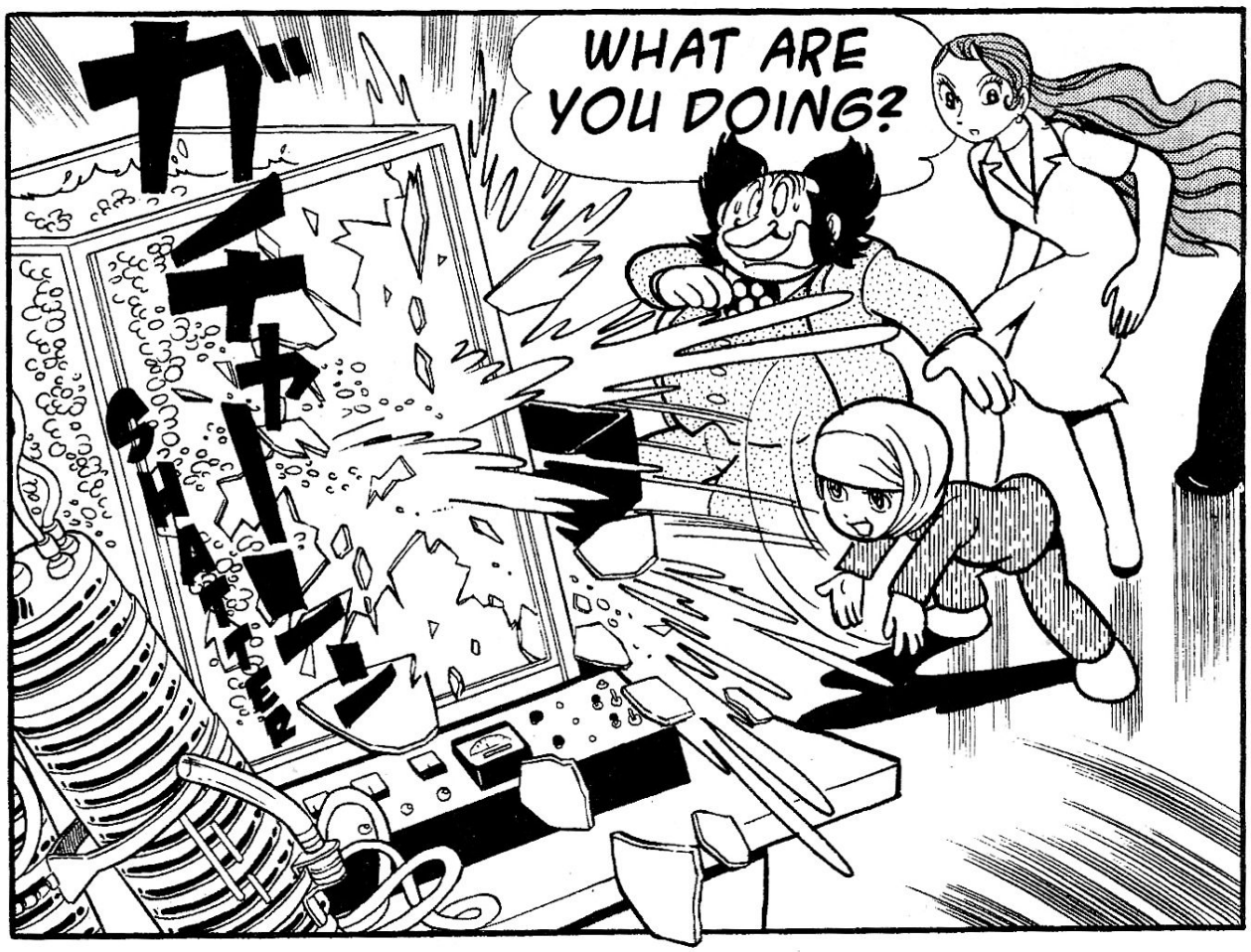
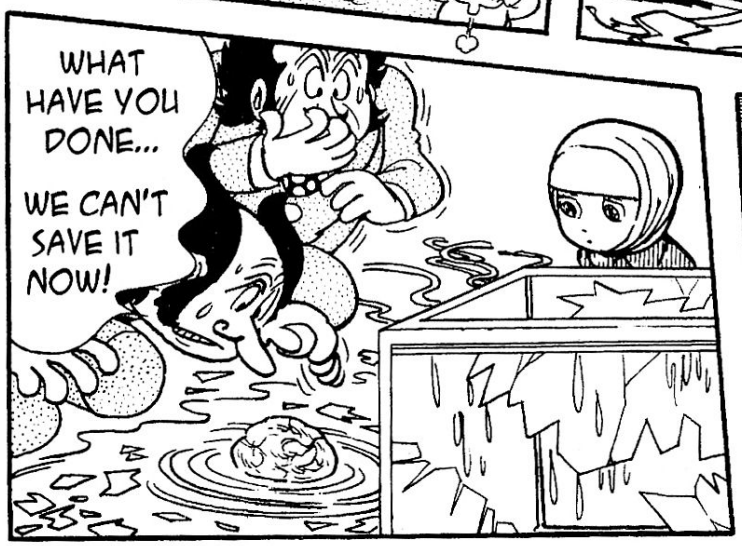



AH, THIS, MY BOY? THIS IS YOUR OTHER BRAIN.

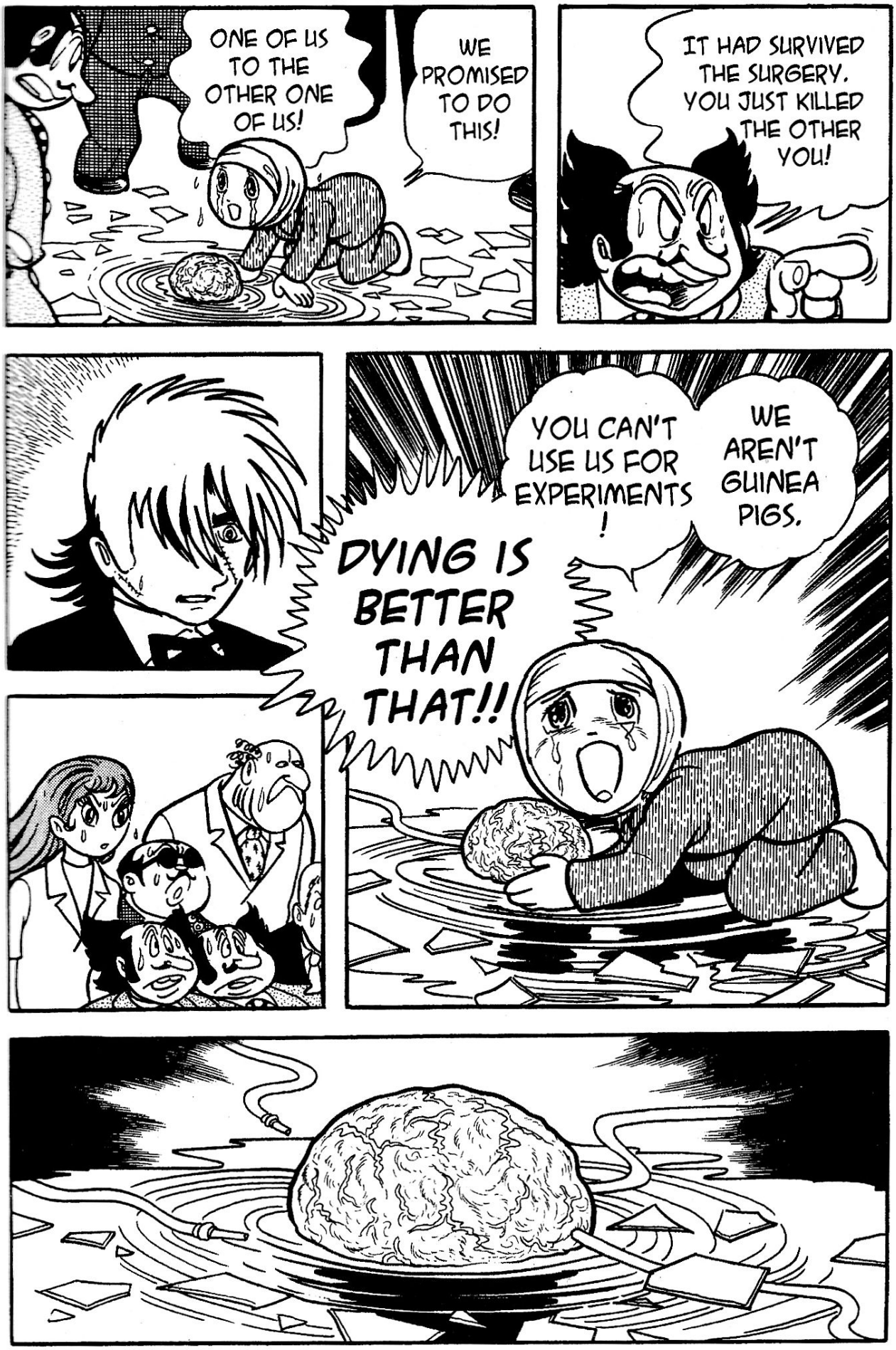

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ガチャーン
SHATTER

N-NO!!

GUSH


WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...
WE CAN'T SAVE IT NOW!

HAVE YOU GONE MAD, JAN?!


ONE OF US TO THE OTHER ONE OF US!
WE PROMISED TO DO THIS!
IT HAD SURVIVED THE SURGERY. YOU JUST KILLED THE OTHER YOU!
YOU CAN'T USE US FOR EXPERIMENTS!
WE AREN'T GUINEA PIGS.
DYING IS BETTER THAN THAT!!